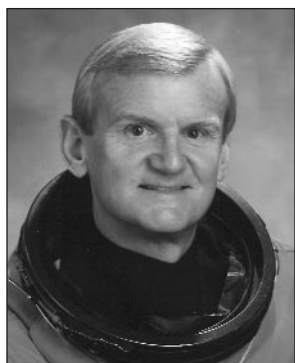


# VPP embraces the whole family



NASA JSC S94-25739

**By Astronaut John Casper,  
Director Safety, Reliability, & Quality  
Assurance Directorate**

OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program – or VPP – isn't just for work anymore. At every opportunity, we at JSC extend the spirit and intent of VPP – not just to our employees – but to every single family member as well.

It just makes good sense. You can't have a happy, productive employee if someone at home is ill or injured, so we want to share both the philosophy and the how-to of healthier, safer living. Safety has always been the first consideration for space flight. Today, as our awareness of safety and health grows, with VPP as the centerpiece, we see the ultimate goal as more involvement among individual employees.

So, how do you make VPP personal? First, get people involved at their level. As we involve more and more people who might otherwise have taken a somewhat passive role, we generate new enthusiasm and even more creative ideas.

For example, what began as an idea from an employee has emerged into a NASA-wide conference to be hosted by JSC on April 16-18, 2002, at the Gilruth Center. Planned in part by employee volunteers, the purpose of the conference is to share best practices and lessons learned, so the entire NASA family may continue to grow as an example of safety excellence. We are also involving employees in our preparation for the Center's VPP re-certification in late July.

There are other examples of what has brought employees closer to the safety program at JSC. Here's a look at some:

- ◆The JSC Safety Action Team (JSAT) is not just another committee. JSAT is composed of rotating volunteers, both civil service and contractor, who represent the voice of the workforce, individually and collectively, in keeping JSC safe and healthy. The JSAT also has a direct audience with the Deputy Center Director to discuss issues. No problem or concern is too small to warrant their attention.
- ◆The yearly Personal Safety Fair is an event that steps beyond workplace safety, addressing such diverse topics as gang violence, home security, firearms safety, skin cancer prevention, carbon monoxide poisoning in the home and even everyday problems, such as how to safely jump-start a dead battery.
- ◆The Annual Safety & Total Health Day is the day designated when all JSC personnel assess their corporate and personal safety plans through mutual exchange and education. Produced by and for the employees, the steering committee relies heavily on employee participation for the day's success. The most recent theme of which was "Make It Personal!"
- ◆The Safety & Total Health Newsletter, possibly more than any other resource, has given identity to the Center's Safety and Health program. Not only are many of the articles from our employees' own experiences, the newsletter also serves as a ready forum for questions, ideas and suggestions for safety and health education and improvement. Now in its seventh year of publication, the four-page monthly issue reaches an estimated 13,500 employees.

How does JSC know it reaches beyond the workplace and to the entire family? Feedback mostly. We frequently hear stories of how someone administered CPR learned at work or rendered first aid. One employee, so impressed with the safety program, borrowed safety videos and began teaching his children and some of their young friends basic survival techniques for home fires. Another employee saved a stranger's child from near drowning last summer. Still another initiated a fire escape plan for her group of coworkers when on travel.

So, we see impressive evidence that VPP is not left at the doorstep at the end of the workday; it's becoming a 24-hour state-of-mind. And, that's the way it ought to be – VPP isn't just for work any more.

FROM THE DESK OF ROY S. ESTESS



**NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe recently presented the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal to Roy Estess for his leadership at JSC. Estess was honored at the senior management retreat at Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton, Va.**

To the JSC employee family,

For the past year, it has been my honor to work alongside you here in Houston. My tenure as Center Director, although longer than expected, has been an enjoyable and educational experience for me.

In the past year, I have watched as your hard work helped the Space Station to grow in size and capability, as three Expedition crews lived and worked on board, and as we safely flew six shuttle missions and returned their crews to Earth. Your dedication to the continuing safety of space flight is a source of pride for me personally and for the entire NASA family. You deserve to be proud of all that you have accomplished and to look forward with confidence to the challenges ahead.

Remember that you are a member of only two relatively small groups of people on the Earth who know how to do what you do. The ability to select and train the right people, build the machines and tools required and then plan and execute trips into space safely is certainly a unique capability. And you are the best!

As I return to my home at the Stennis Space Center, I will take with me many cherished memories of the support you have given me in this past year and the many lessons I have learned.

I know that Jeff Howell will be equally impressed with your professionalism and dedication to our country's space program. I encourage you to welcome him and show him that you are among NASA's finest and most talented people.

I have enjoyed knowing and working with you. I will miss you.

Roy S. Estess

## SOLAR has new training module available

NASA's SOLAR Online Training System has a new module available for all NASA employees. The new module is (HR-001-02D) Accessibility Awareness Training, and is designed to provide an overview of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and how that affects NASA and NASA employees.

The 1973 Rehabilitation Act includes Section 501, which prohibits discrimination against employment for individuals with disabilities; Section 504, which states that government facilities must be accessible to individuals with disabilities; and Section 508, which states that individuals with disabilities have a right to access the same electronic information as everyone else.

The training module is very user-friendly and can be completed in about 15 minutes. Every NASA employee is encouraged to take the familiarization training and to help NASA become a better workplace for all of us, including staff, the public and visitors who may have a disability. See <https://solar.msfc.nasa.gov:443/solar/delivery/public/html/newindex.htm> for the complete course listing on SOLAR.